

# State of South Dakota

## SPECIAL SESSION OF THE SEVENTY- SECOND SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1997

247A0014

### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. **2**

Introduced by: Senators Rounds, Aker, Benson, Brown (Arnold), Daugaard, Dunn (Jim),  
Everist, Frederick, Hainje, Halverson, Hunhoff, Johnson (William), Kleven,  
Shoener, Staggers, Thompson, Vitter, and Whiting and Representatives  
Monroe, Apa, Brown (Jarvis), de Hueck, Hassard, Koskan, Madden, Napoli,  
and Pederson (Gordon)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting the communities of Pierre and Fort Pierre in  
2 finding solutions to chronic flooding problems.

3 WHEREAS, the accumulation of sediment being deposited by the Bad River has led to a  
4 significant rise in the bed of the Missouri River as it flows through the Pierre-Fort Pierre area;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, this long-standing problem has resulted in a significant increase in local  
7 groundwater levels, causing a chronic, continuous problem for residents in low-lying areas of the  
8 two communities; and

9 WHEREAS, the problem has caused several flooding incidents in southeast Pierre including  
10 a life-threatening situation on January 10, 1997, when an ice jam forced Missouri River water  
11 into streets and intersections causing damage to a variety of personal property throughout the  
12 neighborhood; and

13 WHEREAS, high river elevations resulting from increased releases from the Oahe Dam have

1 brought groundwater to damaging levels, flooding basements, forcing sump pumps to run  
2 continuously and lowering property values; and

3 WHEREAS, the threat of ice jam surface flooding forces the United States Army Corps of  
4 Engineers to curtail power generation in times of greatest electric power demand; and

5 WHEREAS, the Western Area Power Administration has indicated that demands for electric  
6 power beginning in the years 2000 to 2005 will necessitate usage of the Oahe Dam to generate  
7 electric power at times of peak demand, thereby increasing the probability and duration of ice  
8 jam-induced surface flooding; and

9 WHEREAS, residents of southeast Pierre have joined together to form the Southeast Pierre  
10 Property Owners Association in an attempt to find intermediate and long-term solutions to these  
11 water-related problems; and

12 WHEREAS, the Southeast Pierre Property Owners Association is now working with the  
13 state's congressional delegation, along with state and local officials, on the best possible solution  
14 to this problem; and

15 WHEREAS, members of the Southeast Pierre Property Owners Association voted  
16 unanimously on April 7, 1997, that the association should pursue a federal legislative effort, as  
17 offered by members of the state's congressional delegation, that would require the United States  
18 Army Corps of Engineers to relocate the neighborhood and its residents:

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Special Session of the  
20 Seventy-second Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives  
21 concurring therein, that the Legislature supports the efforts of the Southeast Pierre Property  
22 Owners Association, and the cities of Pierre and Fort Pierre, in their quest to find intermediate  
23 and long-term solutions to this serious problem.